

Fifty-eight respondents noted that their agencies currently have operational gang units with the number of assigned officers ranging from one to 14 with the typical gang unit possessing three officers. More than three-quarters (79%) of the respondents reported that these officers have received specialized training for identifying gangs and for intervening in their criminal activities. The data indicates that the number of law enforcement agencies with established gang units has risen since 2004 in which only 15 percent of the responding agencies had such units. Findings from the original 1999 study reveal that less than 10 percent of the responding agencies had gang units nine years ago.

Fifty-two percent of the agencies actively track and monitor gang activities with a slightly higher percentage (66%) reporting that they compile additional intelligence data on individual gang members.

As of September 2007, only 37 percent of the responding agencies were using the GangNet database system with an additional 78 percent having plans to join this network in the future.

GangNet is an Internet based law enforcement intelligence sharing database which houses information about known gang members that have been entered by law enforcement agencies and who have been validated by meeting at least 2 of 11 criteria for gang membership or who have self-reported their gang membership. Information in this database is populated statewide by member law enforcement agencies and in a second phase, Department of Correction data will be included.